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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**of the**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**VOCATIONAL**  
**REHABILITATION**  
**DEPARTMENT**

**Fiscal Year 1976-77**



**J. S. Dusenbury**  
**Commissioner**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
of the**

**SOUTH CAROLINA  
VOCATIONAL  
REHABILITATION  
DEPARTMENT**

**Fiscal Year 1976-77**



**J. S. Dusenbury  
Commissioner**

**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

The Honorable James B. Edwards  
Governor of South Carolina  
The State House  
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Sir:

I hereby submit to the General Assembly, through you, the annual report of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department for the fiscal year 1977, in compliance with the 1962 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended.

Behind the statistics found in this report are thousands of once disabled men and women who have been helped to have better lives through the services of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Yours very truly,

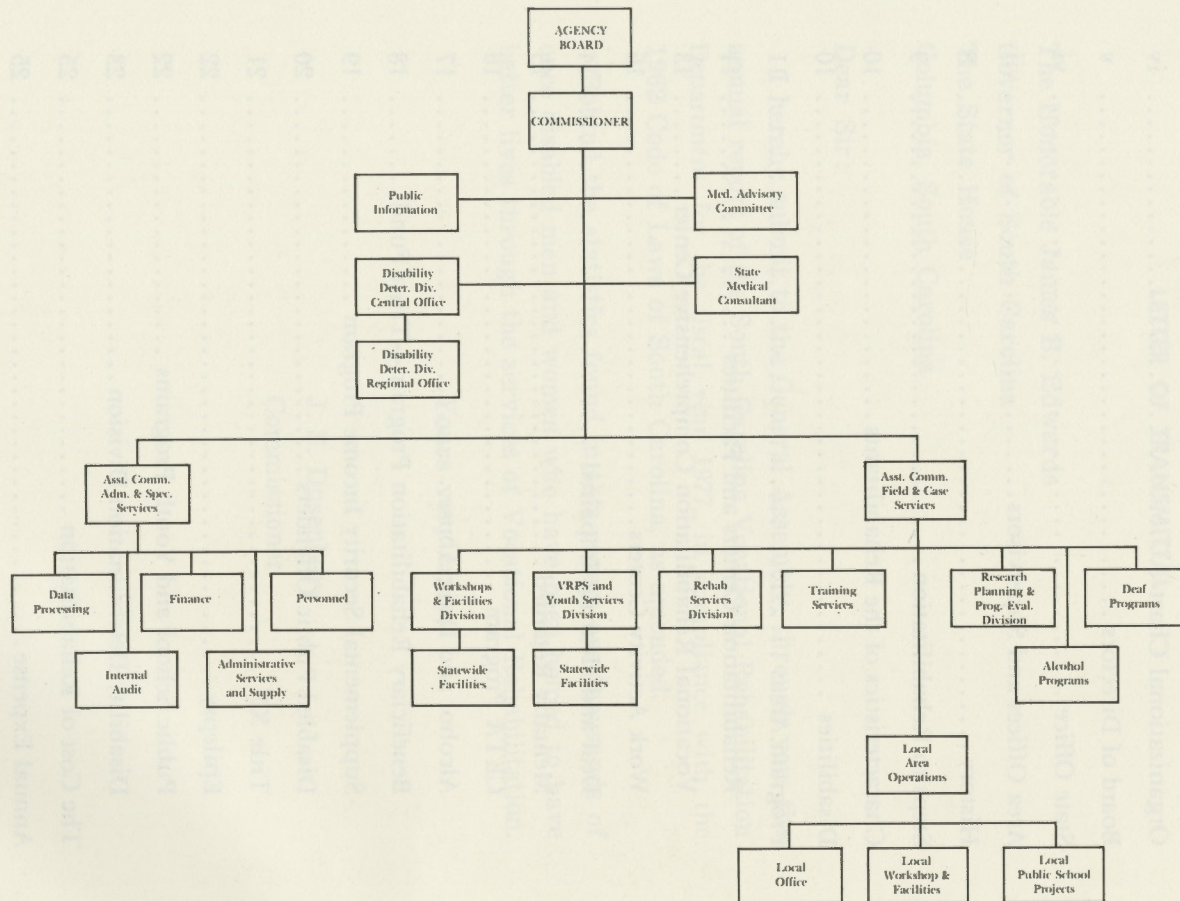
J. S. Dusenbury  
Commissioner



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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**E. Roy Stone, Jr., Greenville, Chairman**

**Dr. H. L. Laffitte, Allendale, Vice Chairman**

**J. S. Dusenbury, Columbia, Secretary**

**Dr. T. James Bell, Jr., Hartsville**

**Harry W. Findley, Anderson**

**Daniel E. Martin, Charleston**

**John A. Montgomery, Columbia**

**J. Hewlette Wasson, Laurens**

## STATE OFFICE

Joe S. Dusenbury .....Commissioner

Dr. Robert E. Brabham ..... Assistant Commissioner,  
Field and Case Services

T. E. Ringer, Jr. .... Assistant Commissioner, Administration  
and Special Services

Dr. Charles S. Chandler .....Supervisor, Planning and Research

George L. Cleckler ..... Supervisor, Public School and  
Youth Services

Raynold Stoudemayer ..... Supervisor, Rehabilitation Services

Richard A. Vandiver ..... Director, Disability Determination  
Division

Dr. William E. Middleton ..... Supervisor,  
Workshops and Facilities

Dr. Ben Miller ..... Medical Consultant

Allen T. Gantt ..... Personnel Director

Edward H. McMillion ..... Training Director

Lyn D. Johnson ..... Public Information Specialist



## AREA OFFICES AND SUPERVISORS

Raymond Mizell ..... 407 Hayne Avenue, S.W., Aiken

Robert E. Pettigrew ..... 1103 North Fant Street, Anderson

W. B. Creel ..... 209 Fairfield Park, Charleston

Ronald W. Parker ..... 100 Main Street, Columbia

John C. Winn ..... 203 Laurel Street, Conway

H. B. Powell, Jr. .... 1550 West Evans Street, Florence  
..... 102 Screven Street, Georgetown

O. D. Parker ..... Academy Building, 2 Hampton Avenue,  
Greenville

W. H. Turnley ..... 109 Oak Avenue, Greenwood

W. J. Chapman ..... 328 S. Fifth Street, Hartsville

John A. Lybrand ..... 396 St. Paul Street, N.E., Orangeburg

Wehman Sieling ..... 756 Cherry Road, Rock Hill

C. M. Isetts ..... 864 N. Church Street, Spartanburg

Emmet W. Tolson, Jr. .... City-County Office Building, Sumter

William B. Rogers ..... Hiers Professional Center, Walterboro

## HISTORY

During the past 50 years the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has been in operation, 157,421 disabled people have been placed in gainful employment following rehabilitation services.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program started in South Carolina in 1927, as a division of the South Carolina Department of Education, with one full-time and two part-time employees. It was not until 1957 that the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department was established as a separate state agency.

The Department has grown to over 1,000 employees with 15 area offices and 9 satellite offices to serve the clients in all locations of the state. Workshop and evaluation centers are also located within other state institutions, as well as near area offices. Mobile evaluation units provide services to handicapped persons living in rural areas of South Carolina. Services have been improved and expanded by setting up specialized facilities in cooperation with public and private groups and organizations. Coordinated services in special facilities are considered to be one of the main keys to enabling thousands of severely disabled to be released from economic imprisonment.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 placed emphasis on services to the severely disabled. These cases usually require a wider range of comprehensive rehabilitation services over an extended period of time; consequently, many of these cases are quite expensive. At the same time, increases in public funds were increasingly difficult to justify due to economic circumstances. As a result, increases in the rehabilitation program have begun to level off, and there is no longer an increase year after year in the numbers served through the rehabilitation program. Despite all efforts to reduce costs, to utilize other methods of payments, and to become even more efficient and effective in the delivery of services, recent economic events have had serious implications for the handicapped citizens of our state.



## STAIRS STEPS TO REHABILITATION

There are seven basic steps to the process of rehabilitation, each performing a vital function in changing the client into a useful and productive citizen, while transforming the individual into a proud citizen willing to accept his share of rights and responsibilities.

*Diagnostic Services*—Through comprehensive procedures, an evaluation of the client's medical, social, psychological and vocational needs can be determined.

*Counseling and Guidance*—Counseling is a continuous service provided all clients throughout the entire rehabilitation process. The counselor develops, coordinates and integrates services according to the individual needs of his client, his interests and aptitudes and the employment outlook in his community.

*Physical Restoration*—Medical, surgical, dental or psychiatric treatment and hospitalization are given when needed to restore the disabled person to the best possible physical and mental condition. Many times, the handicap is completely removed by treatment.

*Artificial Appliances*—Limbs, glasses, hearing aids and other kinds of artificial aids are provided when needed. This service is based on financial need.

*Training*—The disabled person has a much better chance of getting a job if he has a work skill; therefore, many disabled people are trained or retrained in skills that they can perform despite their condition. Necessary maintenance, transportation and supplies are provided based on financial need.

*Placement*—No client is considered rehabilitated until he is placed in a job suited to his ability . . . that is the goal of all rehabilitation services.

Not all clients require all services, but professional counseling, evaluation and guidance are provided ALL clients in order that they may have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential.

*Follow-Up*—Every client receives follow-up to insure that his rehabilitation is successful and that both he and his employer are satisfied.



## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REHABILITANTS

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department was successful in rehabilitating 12,307 clients during 1977.

At the time of referral:

- 78.9% were unemployed
- 13.2% were in tax supported institutions
- 55.3% were dependent on family and friends for livelihood
- 65.4% had less than 12th grade education

Of the 12,307 men and women rehabilitated 50.5% were male and 55.6% were white.

## DISABILITIES

Rehabilitation of the handicapped has paid off as the disabled become productive. Services provided by the Vocational Rehabilitation Department are extended to persons afflicted with many types of disabilities.

The 12,307 rehabilitants served by Vocational Rehabilitation in 1977 had these disabilities:

Type of Disability	Number of Rehabilitants
Blood Diseases .....	28
Speech Impairments .....	57
Respiratory Diseases .....	141
Absence of Limbs .....	144
Epilepsy and Nervous Disorders.....	165
Cancer .....	229
Other Disabling Conditions .....	368
Allergy, Endocrine Disorders .....	453
Hearing Impairments .....	479
Heart and Circulatory Conditions .....	578
Genito-Urinary System Disorders.....	805
Visual Impairments.....	1,117
Digestive System Disorders .....	1,149
Orthopedic Deformity.....	1,329
Mental Retardation .....	1,768
Mental Illness .....	3,497

## **PROGRAM AREAS**

### **Rehabilitation Centers and Facilities**

The rehabilitation centers and facilities of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department are designed to assist in the coordination, development and provision of comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped citizens of the State of South Carolina.

A vocational rehabilitation center has as its main emphasis the provision of comprehensive evaluation and adjustment training services. Vocational evaluation, including I.Q., aptitude, interest and dexterity testing as well as personal, social and work adjustment status and functioning is provided by the staff of the facility. The center also provides comprehensive adjustment training, which may include personal grooming classes, world of work groups, activities of daily living classes, work adjustment through the utilization of contract activities, academic classes and other services as required. These centers serve all disability groups.

The Department operates a network of rehabilitation centers located in strategic areas throughout the state. These thirteen community-based centers are placing emphasis on the rehabilitation of the severely disabled with an array of services geared to meet the individual needs of the handicapped clients.

Five new rehabilitation centers have been completed and plans are under way for construction of another center. The new centers, which are owned and operated by the Department, are located in Charleston, Greenville, Orangeburg, Walterboro and Sumter.

Other centers in the state are operating within rented space, which have been adapted for the most effective and efficient delivery of adjustment, evaluation and training services to handicapped individuals.

Statewide facilities are available generally to provide services to all disability groups, while other facilities of a statewide nature provide rehabilitation services to a particular type of handicapped individual.

In addition, the Department staffs and operates two motorized Vocational Rehabilitation Guidance Units, equipped with Singer Evaluation Systems and other necessary equipment and supplies. These units are located in areas of the state so that rehabilitation



services can be carried to the handicapped in rural-isolated areas.

*Vocational Rehabilitation Centers*

- \* Aiken
- \* Anderson
- Charleston
- Columbia
- \* Conway
- Greenville
- \* Greenwood
- \* Orangeburg
- \* Florence
- \* Rock Hill
- Spartanburg
- \* Sumter
- \* Walterboro
- \* Work activity centers for the severely mentally retarded in operation within these facilities.

*Statewide Facilities:*

- Morris Village Alcohol and Drug Addiction Center, Columbia
- Holmesview Alcoholic Center, Greenville
- Palmetto Center, Florence
- Cedar Spring Facility for the Deaf, Spartanburg
- Evaluation and Training Facility for the Deaf, Opportunity School, West Columbia
- Vocational Rehabilitation Evaluation Center, Opportunity School, West Columbia
- Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center
- Dill Beckman Vocational Rehabilitation Facility, Ladson
- Midlands Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia
- Whitten Village Rehabilitation Facility, Clinton
- Medical University Hospital Facilities, Charleston
  - Psychiatric Rehabilitation
  - Speech and Hearing Facility
  - Cardio-Vascular Facility
  - Peripheral Vascular Facility
  - Epilepsy Rehabilitation Facility
  - Referral Unit
- Public Offender Facilities
  - Reception and Evaluation Center, Columbia
  - Central Correctional Institution, Columbia
  - Manning Correctional Institution, Columbia
  - Pre-release Center, Columbia
  - Correctional Institution for Women, Columbia
  - Wateree Correctional Institution, Boykin
  - Blue Ridge Community Pre-Release Center, Greenville



MacDougall Youth Correction Center, Ridgeville  
 State Park Health Center, Columbia  
 Crafts-Farrow Hospital Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia  
 State Hospital Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia

*Specialized Rehabilitation Facilities and Projects:*

Hearing and Speech Center, Columbia  
 Evaluation Facility for Mental Health, Spartanburg  
 Cardio-Vascular Rehabilitation Facility, Greenville  
 Marshall Pickens Evaluation Facility, Greenville

**Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center**

Severely handicapped clients in South Carolina have had some difficulty in the past in getting from one location to another in order to receive necessary services.

The Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Center in West Columbia has helped in alleviating this problem. The statewide facility, which is owned and operated by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, is the only residential facility of its kind operated by the Department to provide services to its severely disabled clients.

The Center provides a program of services which is designed to meet the individualized needs of the severely disabled. The services are coordinated between the Rehabilitation team at the facility and the Vocational Rehabilitation counselor at the local level to insure that the clients of the Department receive the maximum utilization of the service delivery system established at the Center.

The Center can accommodate 35 clients at any one time, including residents and out-patients. Services at the facility include physical therapy, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy and activities of daily living.

In addition, the Center is equipped and staffed to provide gait and mobility training, speech and hearing services, vocational and psychological evaluation and support services which consist of recreational, dining and residential care. The uniqueness of the Center lies in the provision of these services in one location, thus eliminating the necessity of transporting Vocational Rehabilitation clients throughout the community or state for needed individual services which can now be provided at the Comprehensive Center. However, any services not provided at the Center can be coordinated

with other agencies, facilities and organizations in order to provide maximum services to meet the individualized needs of the severely disabled individuals.

The Comprehensive Center is staffed to provide twenty-four hour service as needed. The barrier free building includes dormitory facilities for eighteen residents and, by residing in such a facility, clients can learn to become more self sufficient in taking care of their daily needs. This, in turn, makes them more suitable for employment when they return to their communities within the state.

### **Deaf and Hearing Impaired**

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired is composed of 33 professional and non-professional staff members located strategically throughout South Carolina to serve only the hearing impaired caseloads. Nine (9) of the professional staff are counselors serving from two to six counties each.

The Adult Deaf Evaluation and Training Center, operated in cooperation with the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School in West Columbia, serves severely disabled deaf individuals from across the state. A full-time psychologist for the deaf acts as in-house psychologist as well as liaison between the Vocational Rehabilitation state psychological staff and deaf clients. Services being provided at the Adult Deaf Center include guidance and counseling, evaluation, personal, social and work adjustment training, speech therapy, communication training (sign language and finger spelling), recreation programs and job training.

During fiscal year 1975-76, clients were primarily referred by physicians, school for the physically handicapped, artificial appliance companies, educational institutions, interested individuals deaf consumers and other social service related industries.

Cases accepted for services under the program included:

	<b>Served</b>	<b>Rehabilitated</b>
Deafness, unable to talk .....	301	29
Deaf, able to talk .....	252	18
Other Hearing Impairments .....	1479	402
	<u>2035</u>	<u>479</u>

The Vocational Rehabilitation facility located on the campus and in cooperation with the South Carolina School for the Deaf



continues to work with the deaf students while they are attending Cedar Spring. Upon graduation the students are transferred to their respective home area and services are continued until completion by the specialty counselors.

A continued effort is being made to provide adequate services through the local speech and hearing centers throughout the state. Also, more involvement with the deaf community and their organizations has provided a much improved relationship with the hearing impaired population.

### **Mentally Retarded**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department also provides services to the severely mentally retarded in three state institutions. These services are geared to benefit the mentally retarded who need residential types of services rather than local community services. These are carried out in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation.

Services provided to these clients include vocational evaluation, adjustment training, community resident placement, job placement, training and follow-up services to ensure that the client is progressing well in his new lifestyle.

Within the last few years, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Mental Retardation have developed community residences within the state for those clients being transferred from institutions into competitive employment. This program has allowed for an extension of vocational rehabilitation services within the Vocational Rehabilitation units at the institutions.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Unit at Whitten Village is now serving clients from the institution population. Midlands Center is considered the statewide facility, whereby clients are referred by Vocational Rehabilitation counselors in other areas for an individualized comprehensive program of services to meet the individual needs of the clients. At Coastal Center, the Vocational Rehabilitation unit is providing services to the institutional population as well as reaching the communities through several public schools. This attempt has allowed for a delivery of services that would otherwise have been unavailable for the retarded citizens in that area of the state.

During fiscal year 1975-76, there were 11,122 clients with the



disability of mental retardation, of whom 1,768 were closed as successfully rehabilitated.

### **Work Activity Centers**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation have, through a cooperative agreement, set up work activity centers in an attempt to provide improved services to the severely mentally retarded of the state.

The work activity center program began with two centers, one in Anderson and one in Rock Hill, in 1973, with initial funding under the Developmental Disabilities Act. All are now funded jointly by Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Mental Retardation. Centers are now in operation in Greenwood, Aiken, Orangeburg, Walterboro, Conway, Florence and Sumter as well. Future plans provide for centers in all of the thirteen Vocational Rehabilitation Centers in the state.

Services offered in these projects include evaluation, personal and social adjustment, work adjustment, on-the-job training, as well as daily living classes.

The program is designed to take the severely mentally retarded population out of institutions and provide them with the training they need in order to take their places in society. These citizens will, hopefully, be able to return to the community and earn a livelihood as a result of the program. Because of the severity of their disabilities, these handicapped people usually require a longer transition period before their employment.

The work activity centers served 276 severely mentally retarded clients during fiscal year 1976-77.

### **CETA Program**

During Fiscal Year 1976-77 the Vocational Rehabilitation Department was one of three major subcontractors providing services to CETA participants who were involved in the various programs sponsored by CETA. The other two subcontractors that worked cooperatively with the Vocational Rehabilitation Department were the Employment Service and Technical Education.

This program is funded through the Comprehensive Employment

Training Act (CETA) under the Department of Labor. It is designed to provide Manpower training and other services in an effort to assist the unemployed, the underemployed and the economically disadvantaged population of the state. The goal of the program is to allow these individuals to receive services which will better prepare them to enter the labor market.

It has been found that a number of these individuals under the CETA program have physical and mental disabilities, for which vocational rehabilitation services are most appropriate.

Full-time Vocational Rehabilitation counselors serve CETA enrollees in the provision of basic medical evaluation and assessment services.

Ten Assessment Centers are available for the purpose of ascertaining the CETA enrollees' vocational potential. In addition, two motorized units with sophisticated evaluation equipment provide evaluation services to clients in remote areas of the state. Four adjustment programs were implemented to serve CETA enrollees who need specialized services before pursuing further CETA functions.

Approximately \$975,000 was made available to the Vocational Rehabilitation Department for services and equipment through the CETA program, enabling the Department to provide services to more than 5,000 participants.

### **Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

During the 1976-77 fiscal year, Vocational Rehabilitation served 2,593 clients handicapped by alcohol abuse and 423 clients handicapped by drug abuse. 541 alcoholics and 102 drug abusers were successfully rehabilitated.

Two treatment centers administered by Vocational Rehabilitation provide in-patient therapy to the alcoholic. Palmetto Center in Florence served 435 residents this past year. Holmesview Center, located in Greenville, served 225. Both centers support the referring Vocational Rehabilitation field counselors who remain responsible for follow-up services once the client returns to his home community.

Vocational Rehabilitation counselors and mental health counselors utilize the Earle E. Morris Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center for clients needing inpatient therapy for the misuse of drugs



and alcohol. A Vocational Rehabilitation unit at the Center provides clients a comprehensive vocational assessment plus personal and social adjustment services.

In July, 1976, the Counseling and Referral Elective (CARE) program began its fourth year of operation. This program assists troubled state and local government employees as well as those in private industry when their work performance is affected by alcohol or other problems. During this past fiscal year, 227 received services through this program, after having been referred by their employers or self-referrals.

In this last fiscal year, the Palmetto Center Community Seminar program continued to train community teams. This training effort, funded by NIAAA, provides local community professional and lay persons training in the dynamics of the disease of alcoholism and the importance of interagency involvement in the delivery of services at the community level.

### **Beneficiary Rehabilitation Program—Trust Fund**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has made continuous progress in serving the Social Security Disability Beneficiary since the inception of the Trust Fund Program in 1965.

Congress amended the Social Security Act at that time by setting up a trust fund which amounted to 1% of all money that was being paid out to disability beneficiaries, to be set aside for 100% allocation to state vocational rehabilitation agencies for the purpose of providing services to selected beneficiaries who meet special selection criteria.

The criteria which the trust fund counselor uses are aimed toward the rehabilitation of the selected beneficiary to a level of medical improvement and/or a level of income which would result in the beneficiary no longer being eligible for, and in need of social security disability benefits. The accomplishment of these objectives resulted in Congress increasing Trust Fund Program allocations effective July 1, 1973, to 1½% of benefits paid out. This increase in funds made it possible for South Carolina to add more counselors, offering full time Trust Fund coverage over the entire state with 15 counselors now serving South Carolina. They work only with the Social Security Disability Beneficiary.

A person is considered eligible for Disability Social Security Benefits if he is found to have a severe impairment which prevents



work and which has lasted or is expected to last for 12 months or longer. The beneficiary who is found to meet special Trust Fund Selection Criteria, does not have to meet economic need requirements to receive vocational rehabilitation services provided from Trust Funds. The beneficiary whose disability is permanent and cannot be improved will receive a nine-month trial work period if he is able to find a work situation that is suited for one with limitations imposed by such a disability. At the end of the nine months of work, the client will be reevaluated and a decision will be made concerning his ability to continue work. If it is determined that the beneficiary is able to do substantial gainful work, he will be given three additional months of benefits, or a total of 12 months, then will be terminated.

Should he later become unable to continue employment, immediate resumption of benefits will be provided. These incentives give a beneficiary every opportunity to attempt to return to work no matter how severe the limitations are. If the beneficiary recovers medically the trial work period does not apply.

During fiscal year 1975-76 South Carolina rehabilitated 210 Social Security beneficiaries who met special selection criteria. Previous follow-up studies show that at least 50% of those beneficiaries closed as successfully rehabilitated become terminated from the Social Security rolls as a result of the services provided by the Trust Fund program.

### **Supplemental Security Income Program**

Beginning on January 1, 1974, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department initiated a new program under an agreement with the federal government.

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program went into effect at that time, with the state no longer giving welfare assistance to the needy aged, blind and disabled. Prior to this time, the South Carolina Department of Social Services provided payments to his group.

Under the new program the federal government assumed the responsibility of payments to the needy aged, blind and disabled, with the Disability Determination Division—a division of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department—charged with the responsibility of making the decision on eligibility for the disabled in South Carolina.

Since the beginning of this program a number of these "disabled" people have been referred to the South Carolina Vocational

**Rehabilitation Department for services.** The result of the services provided was that some of these "disabled" were returned to gainful employment.

SSI payments are made to the disabled based on economic need. When clients are placed in employment and they begin to earn a salary, their economic situation changes, and payments to these clients are adjusted accordingly. The goal of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department is to reduce or remove SSI payments to clients. Clients who are placed in employment are often able to earn a salary greater than the SSI benefits which they would receive.

The SSI Program provides for a nine month trial work period. During this period, barring medical recovery, a determination as to the individual's capacity to engage in Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) will be deferred until the end of the work period. An SSI recipient's earnings during a trial work period are counted in computing the payment level. Another rehabilitation incentive is the "Self Support Plan"—any income and or resources necessary to fulfilling an approved "Self Support Plan" may be disregarded in computing payment amounts.

There are eleven SSI specialty counselors in the state at this time, but all areas of the state are served by these counselors. They are located in Anderson, Greenville, Spartanburg, Rock Hill, Conway, Florence, Sumter, Columbia, Aiken, Charleston and Walterboro.

During fiscal year 1976-77, the Department rehabilitated 127 Supplemental Security Income recipients who met special selection criteria. At least 60% of these recipients closed as successfully rehabilitated met substantial gainful activity requirements and will be terminated from the SSI rolls as a result of the services provided by the Supplemental Security Income Program.

### **Disabled Public Offenders**

Last year the Vocational Rehabilitation Department served approximately 9,573 public offenders and rehabilitated 1,718. The Public Offender Project provides rehabilitation services to the public offender within the institutions and to the ex-offender in the community who are deemed eligible because of a physical or mental disability. Services provided on a needs basis consist of assessment, counseling and guidance, placement and follow-up.

The Department is presently working with a majority of the public offenders who are eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services.



**Through close coordination between the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Corrections, the project is endeavoring to provide a better service delivery system to those public offenders eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services.**

At the present time, the South Carolina Department of Corrections operates seven work release centers and two pre-release centers. The Vocational Rehabilitation Department is included in most of these centers to assist the client in his exit to the community, as well as follow-up services once the client has returned to the community. The Vocational Rehabilitation counselor plays an integral part in assisting the public offender in his reintegration into the community.

With the vocational rehabilitation services provided while the public offender is incarcerated and the services provided after his release, a disabled public offender receives the reinforcement necessary to insure his successful rehabilitation.

The follow-up program for these clients who are deemed eligible for vocational rehabilitation services is presently carried by nine counselors located in strategic areas of the state who serve primarily those clients who have been transferred from various institutions within the correctional setting.

## **Title XX**

An agreement was signed with the Department of Social Services for the Vocational Rehabilitation Department to provide (a) evaluation and diagnostic services and (b) training and adjustment services to family court referrals, public assistance recipients, program dropouts and other disabled youth throughout the ten planning regions of the state. The impact objective of these services is to help individuals in these target groups to develop their physical and mental abilities and their vocational and social skills to such an extent that they are able to obtain employment.

Approximately 50% of the Title XX clients served have been AFDC recipients with the remainder meeting the income eligibility criteria for services under Title XX. Vocational Rehabilitation services for these target groups were recommended as a priority by most of the Regional Planning Councils.

Clients selected for services under Title XX are mostly youthful individuals, economically dependent, from low-income families,



who require multiple services, particularly a comprehensive evaluation, vocational and personal adjustment training and extensive counseling to prepare them for entry into the world of work. Many of them require considerable time to work through problems which prevent their full participation in the program. In addition, those with a high mental or emotional component to their disability require additional time and funds to develop an individualized program to meet their needs. By obtaining Title XX federal funds to serve these clients, it has allowed the agency to maintain its level of services to such clients rather than curtailing programs for individuals in these target groups.

With the \$593,000 made available to the Vocational Rehabilitation Department during the 1976-77 fiscal year, rehabilitation services were provided to almost 3200 individuals who would not have been served without such funds.

### **Epilepsy**

A concentrated effort is being made through the Epilepsy Rehabilitation Facility at the Medical University Hospital in Charleston to provide the necessary services for epileptic clients. The facility was set up as a result of a grant through the Developmental Disabilities Act, specifically for these clients who need a well-coordinated delivery of services, usually for a longer period of time than many other rehabilitation clients. A major portion of their rehabilitation deals with educating the client and his family on the nature of epilepsy.

Last year 864 clients with a disability of epilepsy received services through the Department. This number includes clients from other areas of the state who are served by rehabilitation counselors in their home communities as well as 103 clients served by a full-time rehabilitation counselor at the Medical University facility.

### **Public School and Youth Program**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has an agreement with the State Department of Education and many local school districts throughout the state to provide rehabilitation services to eligible physically and mentally handicapped students in the secondary schools.

The services rendered in this program are the same type provided to other vocational rehabilitation clients. They include vocationally

oriented counseling and guidance, medical and non-medical evaluation to determine the type of work the student will be suited to do upon completion of his formal education.

A program of services is also available for those students who drop out of school before they reach a training state or employment readiness. These individuals may be returned to school, placed in on-the-job training, or placed in some specialized vocational training program in keeping with their abilities and interests.

The Department also cooperates with the Department of Youth Services and many family courts in developing programs of service for juvenile delinquents. These youth programs have proven particularly successful in those areas in which court personnel and judges work closely with vocational rehabilitation counselors. This program has been used in many areas as an alternative to incarceration.

During fiscal year 1976-77 there were 11,199 mentally and physically handicapped students served through the school programs, of whom 1,756 were successfully rehabilitated. The youth program rehabilitated 404 of the 3,540 clients which it served during last fiscal year.

There are 26 VR-PS programs located in the following areas: Anderson, Campobello, Chester, Cherokee, Charleston, Columbia, Conway, Dalzell, Dentsville, Dillon, Fairfield, Florence, Graniteville, Greenwood, Kershaw, Kingstree, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Rock Hill, Sumter, Union and York.

The youth programs are operating in 15 locations. They are: Anderson, Aiken, Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Beaufort, Greenville, Conway, Greenwood, Lancaster, Laurens, Orangeburg, Rock Hill, Spartanburg and Sumter.

### **Disability Determination Division**

The Disability Determination Division has the responsibility for processing claims for disability benefits filed under the provisions of the Social Security Act of 1954 and under the Supplemental Security Income Program which went into effect January 1, 1974. Under both programs, benefits may be paid to disabled individuals who are unable to engage in substantial gainful activity by reason of their medical impairments. The Disability Division is charged with the



responsibility for ensuring that sound medical evidence is obtained and that the decision to allow or deny benefits meets all of the requirements of the Social Security regulations and the law.

The Disability Determination Division of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department has 146 full-time and 4 part-time staff members, including 6 full-time and 2 part-time physicians trained in a wide range of specialties. The division has offices in Columbia, Greenville and Charleston. All professional personnel are trained in the evaluation of medical and vocational factors and the disability decision is made jointly by professional disability examiners and physicians.

In addition to determining disability, each claim is reviewed to determine if the individual has rehabilitation potential regardless of whether or not benefits are allowed. All individuals who are felt to have such potential are referred to counselors within the general program or the Trust Fund/Social Security Insurance Program.

During FY 77, a large number of benefit recipients who had been referred to Vocational Rehabilitation counselors for services were successfully rehabilitated. This represents a significant savings in government spending, but in addition the individuals have gained personal satisfaction as a result of their re-entry into the mainstream of society.

During the past fiscal year, the Disability Determination Division processed 49,402 claims for disability benefits. As of December, 1976, there were 43,571 Social Security Disability beneficiaries and 36,560 Supplemental Security Disability beneficiaries in the state. Benefit payments to these individuals totaled \$13,924,194.00 per month. In addition, over \$1,000,000.00 per month was being paid to dependents of these disabled individuals. In addition to the actual benefits received by South Carolinians, the program resulted in expenditures of \$914,546.00 for medical evaluation services.

## **EARNINGS AND OCCUPATIONS OF THE REHABILITANTS**

The average weekly earnings of the rehabilitants increased 474.6% as a result of rehabilitation services—from an average of \$15.08 per week per client before rehabilitation to \$86.67 per week per client after rehabilitation.

These rehabilitants are working at various jobs now: 458 are working in farming and related occupations; 1,689 working in



special occupations; 2,819 in service occupations; 5,235 in industrial occupations; 1,307 in clerical and sales and 799 in professional, technical and managerial occupations.

## **THE COST OF REHABILITATION**

Supporting unemployed disabled persons is a continuous cost year after year. The cost for rehabilitation per client was only \$1,928 last year—only a fraction of the annual cost per case at many state institutions such as prisons, hospitals and treatment centers.

## **ANNUAL EXPENSE**

The total annual expenditure by the Vocational Rehabilitation Department last year was \$23,733,075 for the Vocational Rehabilitation services program. It takes 3.9 years for the rehabilitant to repay the state and federal governments the cost of rehabilitation through annual taxes. The 12,307 rehabilitants last year will pay an estimated \$4,166,242 in federal income taxes; \$518,578 in state income taxes and \$1,426,084 in state sales tax.

Of the total annual expenditures, 95.4%, or \$22,647,353, went for case services. This involves counseling and placement of the clients. This expenditure was used for professional and clerical salaries, travel, communications, supplies, rent, office maintenance and equipment. The case services monies are also spent on diagnostic procedures, surgery, treatment, prosthetic appliances, hospitalization and convalescent care, training and equipment and licenses for clients.

The remaining 4.6%, or \$1,085,722, was spent on administration in Vocational Rehabilitation. This includes administrative and clerical salaries, travel, communications, supplies, public information, rent and office maintenance and equipment.

These figures do not include expenditures for the Disability Determination Division program in South Carolina during fiscal year 1976-77.

A comparison of expenditures for fiscal year 1975-76 and 1976-77 shows:

	FY 1975-76	FY 1976-77
Administration	4.2% or \$1,041,272	4.6% or \$1,085,722
General Rehabilitation	45.6% or \$11,215,860	47.3% or \$11,239,293
Evaluation and Training		
Facilities	15.7 % or \$3,849,717	14.6% or \$3,458,970
Alcoholic Centers	2.2% or \$544,698	3.5% or \$830,125 *
Cooperative Public School Programs	12.0% or \$2,944,665	7.7% or \$1,834,577 **
Interagency Projects (Special Grants)	17.1% or \$4,216,270	17.1% or \$4,058,730
Deaf and Hearing Impaired	1.2% or \$284,164	1.2% or \$282,105
Workshop Productions	2.0% or \$499,026	4.0% or \$943,553
Total Operating Expense	\$24,595,672	\$23,733,075
Disability Determination Division	\$3,372,388	\$3,779,395
Capital Improvements	\$2,015,476	\$533,747
Grand Total Expenditures	\$29,983,486	\$28,046,217

\*Includes Palmetto Center & Holmesview Center

\*\*Does not include certified funds

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**PUBLICATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT**

Annual Report

Breakthrough—A pictorial, graphic and factual review of each fiscal year

New Horizons—A newsletter

From Tax User to Tax Payer

Rehabilitation, The Third Phase of Medicine

Counseling and Referral Elective (CARE)

Palmetto Center

Holmesview Alcoholic Center

Supplemental Security Income

Deafness: A New Approach; A Brighter Tomorrow

Evaluation and Training Center for Adult Deaf

Has Disability Got You Down?

50 Years of Service to the Handicapped

